



**CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK
INTERVIEW WITH THE BOSTON HERALD
SECTION ON ISRAEL**

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

The following is a partial transcript of a recent interview of Congressman Barney Frank by the editorial board of the Boston Herald. The entire interview lasted over an hour and covered a range of topics. Among them was a discussion of Israel, which is printed in its entirety below.

On the basis Frank's statements, the Herald [printed a story](#) claiming that "U.S. Congressman Barney Frank had harsh words yesterday for the Israeli Navy after a bloody raid on a pro-Palestinian flotilla outside Gaza, describing nine activists in the conflict as 'innocent' and calling for an independent inquiry into the showdown."

Readers can judge for themselves whether they think this is an accurate description of Frank's statement, the entire text of which appears below. [Complete audio can be found at this link.](#)

In response to the Herald's story, Congressman Frank [addressed this letter](#) to the editors of the paper.

BOSTON HERALD: Congressman – you mentioned a few minutes ago your support for Israel. What do you think the U.S. action should be in the wake of this raid?

FRANK: I don't know, I don't know. I'd have to get the facts on that.

Part of the problem -- I wish Netanyahu had been able to make a coalition with Tzipi Livni from the Kadima party, rather than people to his right. People who work closely with him tell me that he would like to do that. I think she may be making the mistake that better he looks worse from our standpoint so she can beat him. I am troubled by that.

On the other, I've got to say, once you have this combat situation, innocent people die. I mean, look at our problems in Afghanistan. I mean, you have the obligation to try to avoid it. Mostly, we've got to root for peace.

My own view is this -- I think we made a mistake by focusing on the Jerusalem issue, as opposed to the non-Jerusalem settlements. I think the best thing we can do is to insist on a much better activity to get rid of all the West Bank settlements.

For one thing, if you're an Israeli military man, you don't want these settlements. They are bad from your defense standpoint; they don't help the defense; they spread you out; they commit you to places you shouldn't be. And I think that

undermines them politically. And you have cases where the settlers clearly are abusive to the Arabs in ways that as a Jew makes me ashamed that there would be Jews that would engage in that kind of victimization of a minority and others. So I think the answer is as long as the bigger context is bad it's hard to fix that. I would have to look at the other individual cases.

But the other thing I will say is this – there will be nations in the world howling for Israel to pay a price don't seem disturbed that the North Koreans killed forty-six South Koreans by torpedoing a South Korean boat. I think we have a right to ask for some consistency.

QUESTION: Do you think there should be an impartial inquiry?

FRANK: I think that would be in Israel's interest. Yes, genuinely impartial.